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electrical leads attached to circuit board that extend through the material to allow electrical connection to the circuit board.

26. A lamp assembly comprising;

a circuit board;

a light emitting unit connected to the circuit board; and

a moldable lens material;

wherein the circuit board has been submerged within the moldable lens material before hardening and the moldable lens material allowed to harden, such that the circuit board and light emitting unit are encased within the moldable lens material in the substantial absence of air.

27. The lamp assembly of claim 26 wherein the light emitting unit comprises at least one light emitting diode.

REMARKS

The claims were subject to an election requirement between the claims of Group 1, claims 1-17 and 24 and Group 2, claims 18-23. Applicant confirms the previous election of the claims of Group 2, without prejudice with respect to applicants' rights with respect to the subject matter of the Group 2 claims.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 9, 11 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,276,822 to Bedrosian *et al.* ("Bedrosian"). The Examiner has also rejected claims 3-8 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Bedrosian in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,325,271 to Hutchisson ("Hutchisson"). By this amendment, Applicants add claims 25-27 and cancel claims 18-23. It is noted that while the Examiner has indicated claim 10 as rejected on the Office Action Summary, the Office Action makes no specific rejection indicating which

reference(s) or which statutory provision over which claim 10 has been rejected. As a result, claims 1-17 and 24-27 are currently at issue in the Application.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 9, 11 and 24 as anticipated by Bedrosian under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claim 1 requires “a mold in place lens material encapsulating the circuit board and light emitting diodes.” The term “encapsulated” and forms of that word, as used in the present application, means “to be molded within” and not to be merely enclosed within any type of structure. See Application, page 9, lines 1-3 and Figure 2 (“[T]he mold is filled with lens material to encapsulate the LEDS and circuit board completely...”).

Bedrosian discloses a method of replacing an incandescent bulb of a conventional vehicle warning assembly with a light emitting diode array. Bedrosian does not disclose an LED array that has been encapsulated or molded within a material, as in claim 1. On the contrary, the LED array of Bedrosian is merely enclosed within a standard light assembly. Because Bedrosian does not disclose all of the elements of claim 1, Bedrosian does not anticipate claim 1. Additionally, because Bedrosian does not disclose or suggest that encapsulating a circuit board within a lens material would be advantageous or desirable, Bedrosian does not render claim 1 obvious.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and, therefore, includes the limitations of claim 1. As a result, claim 2 is allowable over Bedrosian for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 9 requires “a moldable lens material completely encapsulating the circuit board and light emitting unit.” As discussed above with respect to claim 1, claim 9 requires that the circuit board be encapsulated within the moldable lens material. Because the term “encapsulated” means

“to be molded within” and not to be merely enclosed within any type of structure, claim 9 is allowable over Bedrosian for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 11 depends from claim 9 and, therefore, includes the limitations of claim 9. As a result, claim 11 is allowable over Bedrosian for the same reasons as claim 9.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-8 and 12-17 as obvious over Bedrosian in view of Hutchisson under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1 and 9, from which the rejected claims depend, require “a mold in place lens material encapsulating the circuit board and light emitting diodes” and “a moldable lens material completely encapsulating the circuit board and light emitting unit,” respectively. As described above, the term “encapsulated” and forms of that word, as used in the present application, means “to be molded within” and not to be merely enclosed within any type of structure. See Application, page 9, lines 1-3 and Figure 2 (“[T]he mold is filled with lens material to encapsulate the LEDS and circuit board completely...”). As discussed above, Bedrosian does not disclose or suggest this limitation. Bedrosian discloses a multifaceted prismatic diffuser to which a number of LEDs are fitted. Bedrosian does not disclose or suggest “a mold in place lens material encapsulating the circuit board and light emitting diodes” or “a moldable lens material completely encapsulating the circuit board and light emitting unit.” Because neither Bedrosian nor Hutchisson disclose these limitations, claims 3-8 and 12-17 are not obvious over Bedrosian in view of Hutchisson.

III. New Claims 25-27

By this amendment, Applicants have added new claims 25-27. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 25-27 are allowable over the prior art of record.

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-17 and 24-27 are in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to allow such claims to issue.

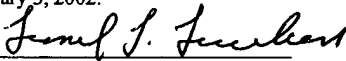
Respectfully Submitted,

Date: January 3, 2002



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FOR: LED LAMP ASSEMBLY

APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT A

Version Of Claims With Markings To Show Changes Made

3. (Amended) The lamp assembly of Claim 2 wherein at least one of said rows of LEDS emit light having a color different from at least another row of said LEDS[;].

16. (Amended) The lamp assembly of Claim 15 wherein the color is red[;].